

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 12, 2004**

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that United States District Court Judge Larry A. Burns, Jr. today sentenced MANUEL TISCARENO-RENTERIA in federal district court in San Diego to serve a prison term of 78 months for setting fire to the Congregation Beth Am Synagogue, located at 5050 Del Mar Heights Road in San Diego, on October 11, 2003. TISCARENO was convicted by jury trial on May 26, 2004 of Malicious Damage to a Building Used in Interstate Commerce.

The evidence presented at TISCARENO-RENTERIA's trial established that TISCARENO used gasoline and an open flame to set fire to sanctuary doors at the synagogue. Damage to the synagogue had been estimated at over \$128,000. The synagogue grounds also included a day-care and religious school, neither of which sustained any fire damage.

U.S. Attorney Lam stated, "The defendant's actions fully justified the sentence imposed in this case. In addition to causing extensive property damage, the defendant robbed members of the Synagogue of the sense of security and safety they deserve."

**DEFENDANT**

Manuel Tiscareno-Renteria

**SUMMARY OF CHARGE**

18 U.S.C. §§ 844(i) (malicious damage to a building used in interstate commerce)  
Minimum Mandatory penalty: 5 years; Maximum penalty: 20 years; \$250,000

**AGENCY**

Federal Bureau of Investigation